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default DIYer

When you are going through a move,

there is the mind-boggling process of subtraction and addition. You attempt to subtract the items that never left their boxes from the last move, while adding those pieces needed for your new space.

I suffer from bipolar purge/hoard disorder. I love to purge but then become despondent about what I gave up. I aspire to live in one of those neatly designed homes with two coffee table books that match the valances with artistic precision. But I've come to realize that it's just not me. Since my years as a student traveling abroad, I have reveled in identifying quality items and the story of their acquisition.

My plan for moving was to thoughtfully analyze my belongings before hoisting them into a dumpster with no remorse. Whether to keep an eyelet prairie skirt I acquired from a consignment shop in Sag Harbor cost me a night's sleep, though I hadn't worn the skirt for years. I clearly remember the

difficulty I had in sourcing the skirt. Ralph Lauren showed similar pieces in his spring collection for an amount that would buy a commuter car. The skirt was a bit too long, but after a painful snip, I cut the bottom tier and produced my favorite one-of-a-kind clothing piece.

This kind of automatic DIY reaction also happened with two end tables I bought for their bold geometric design. After years of living with them, their color did not blend with my newer styles. But a coat of paint subdued the shade.

While I am not a full-fledged DIYer because I have a child, a career and an 11-pound dog with an injury that necessitates my transporting her up the stairs, time for intensive projects is a luxury I reserve for when Luc enters college. I have, though, become a default DIYer. Because of the practicality and of not wanting to give up on quality, compounded by the savings, it makes sense to make the effort.

XO

Jacqueline L. deMontravel
Jacqueline deMontravel
Content Director/Editor

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Yours Truly

MAY BLOOMS

WOW! YOU NEED TO PAT EACH other on the back, kiss each other on the cheek and raise a toast to everyone connected with this issue [May 2015]. It is the best ever. Every page is wonderful.



Rhonda Bailey
Via email

JUNE DELIGHTS

YESTERDAY I RECEIVED THE JUNE 2015 issue, and I do believe it is one of your best so far. The photography, particularly in "Taste of Summer" and "A Lovely Tea," was exceptional. Overall, it was a lovely issue. Thanks so much for putting such beauty in our mailbox.



Marilyn Miller
heartsdelights.blogspot.com
beautifulpdx.blogspot.com • Via email

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Browsing

RETRO *active*

Color and cool come together in nostalgic pieces. By Jacqueline deMontravel



1

Amelie pillow, \$148.
(877) 586-4771 or
pineconehill.com.



2. **Orchidea pillow**, \$225. Visit loft209.com.

3. **Coronado pillow**, \$130. (813) 250-3663 or claytongrayhome.com.

4. **Whimsical Birdhouses drawer liner**. (877) 333-4181 or chicshelfpaper.com.

5. **Love pillow**, \$36. (813) 250-3663 or claytongrayhome.com.

6. **Owl pillow**, \$60. (760) 445-9225 or wabisabigreen.com.

7. **Donna Wilson Goldie cup**, \$24. Visit artsymodern.com.

Browsing



8



9



13



10



12



11

8. Olivia duvet set, \$109.95. (800) 284-5757 or hsn.com.

9. Clash Pots, \$35 for a crochet kit; \$38 ready-made. Visit woolandthegang.com.

10. Chelsea Grande orange wastepaper basket, \$116. (713) 524-0459 or marye-kelley.com.

11. Phone clutch, \$72. (212) 387-7871 or pixiemarket.com.

12. Stool, \$140–\$234. (800) 630-7113 or schoolhouseelectric.com.

13. Sliced Citrus limited-edition print by Kristie Kern, \$89 for a framed 11" x 14" print. Visit minted.com.

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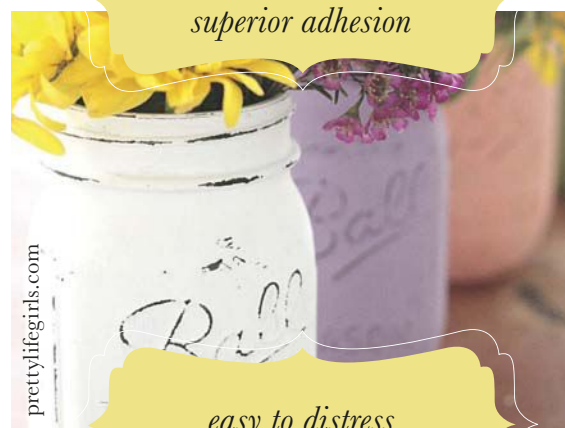
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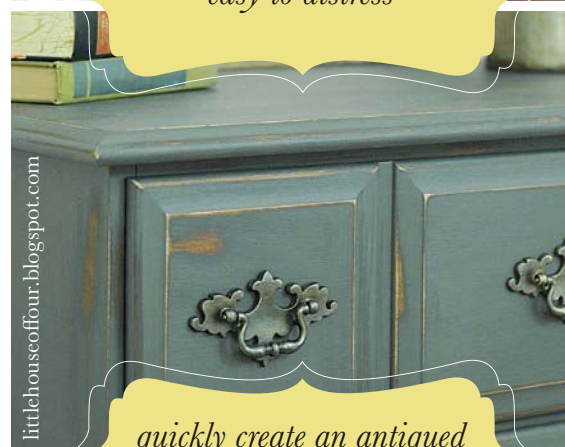
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Private Seaside Spa

These homeowners transformed an old outhouse into a dreamy bathhouse.



This bathroom is located on our property.

It is our summer retreat. The main cabin, which is about 15 feet away, was built in the 1950s and has no indoor plumbing. I dreamed of having a bathtub and looking up at the stars and out at the ocean.

The bathhouse was originally an outhouse built in the 1950s. The people we bought it from had put in a flush toilet and shower, but it was awful and full of mice, spiders and old tools. It was really small, so my husband and I renovated it.

The sink is placed on a 1920s cabinet with a yard-sale mirror above. I found [a fountain] at a yard sale and use it for soaps and shampoos. The plaster shelf support came from Venice.

I painted and stressed the 1920s cabinet. I bought the original porthole on eBay. My mermaid lamp sits perfectly in "the window." The fireplace mantel is made out of wood from an old boathouse.

I made the birdhouse from an old barn lantern that no one wanted because it didn't have any glass. The

flower vase [pictured above right] is made from one of Grandmother's canning jars and an old piece of barn wood. The cement mermaid outside is also a bird feeder. She has a shell necklace around her neck.

My husband, Roy Harvey, was instrumental in helping to make my dream come true.

ANNA DEAN
SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Love This!

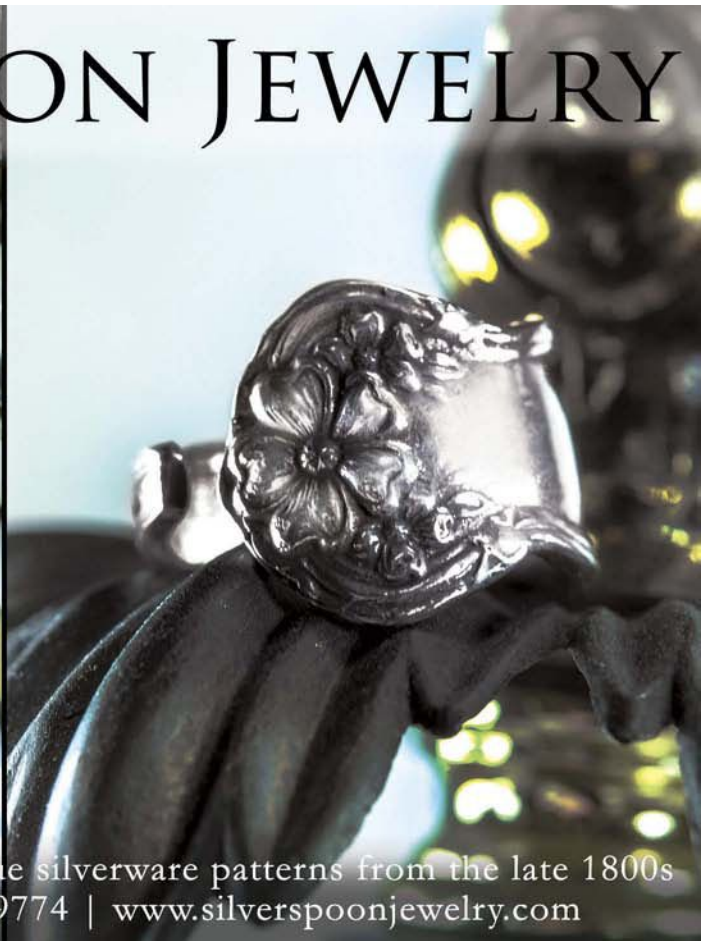
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VINTAGE glamour

A New England shop owner shares her clever ideas for turning roadside castoffs into vintage-chic treasures.

Written, photographed and styled by Jo-Anne Coletti

A broken pane of glass in a china cabinet would be disheartening for most, but not a problem for Mary Lou Sergi. "Replace it with simple chicken wire and it takes on a whole new life," she says.

A farmer's daughter and single mom, Mary Lou learned firsthand that you don't throw anything away. Everything, regardless of condition, can be transformed into something useful, a philosophy that would strike gold later in life when Mary Lou opened the antiques shop Chanel Shabby Rose, named after her 15-year-old daughter.

Charmingly located at the old Winsmith Mill Market in Norwood, Massachusetts, Mary Lou's shop is just one of many in the rustic multi-dealer warehouse, where a surplus of antiques, vintage trinkets and reconstructed creations of every sort can be found.

Mary Lou didn't have a clue on how to run a retail shop when she opened Chanel Shabby Rose, but one thing she did know was how to make something out of nothing. "The things in my shop are of a casual nature, with a high dose of shabbiness, and I like it that way," she says.

A CHIPPY CUBBY, purchased at auction for a song, allows shop girl Vintage Lizzy to show off her exquisite taste in French pillows, antique candy boxes and vintage baubles.





“I’m not afraid of a little elbow grease and know my way around a toolbox pretty well.”—**Mary Lou Sergi**

HOT COLLECTIBLES: 1950s romantic prom dresses, vintage ballerina slippers, French chairs, silver vases and pretty old books are in abundance at the shop and make for romantic displays.



MARY LOU’S TIPS OF THE TRADE

Chanel Shabby Rose is filled with refurbished, reimagined and repurposed vintage finds. Owner Mary Lou Sergi offers a few tips on using flea-market and antiques-shop treasures in your home.

“Salvaged doors and architectural accents never go out of style and add charm, contrast and depth to any room,” she says.

“Spy a great dresser but a drawer is missing or damaged? Solution: Take out the drawers and you have a cabinet with open shelving,” Mary Lou recommends. “Perfect in a bath to house towels, in a kitchen for pots and pans or in an office for storing office necessities.”

“Give old crates or wooden boxes a second life by [adding] legs or caster wheels—a clever way to recycle and add storage,” she says.

CHALK IT UP

Tired of a piece of furniture? Paint it! Chalk paint gives an item an old, matte finish, and with primer properties already built-in, the paint adheres to most surfaces and creates gorgeous results quickly and easily. Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan is a good brand to try and is sold inside the Mill at Madden Blue.

Mary Lou attends auctions and looks for items with good bones and character, but never passes on a great piece just because it needs care and attention. She believes part of the thrill is finding something old and charming and visualizing what it could be. "I'm not afraid of a little elbow grease and know my way around a tool-box pretty well," Mary Lou says. "Most finds require a bit of tweaking, redesigning or a dry brush of white paint."

SHOP GIRL TIPS

Who better to give design and shopping advice than the owners of vintage shops? Here, two retailers share their top tips.

Dealer Karen Weir Palmer from *A Shabby Moment in Time*, which operates within *Chanel Shabby Rose*, says, "Vision is the single most important factor when recreating a vintage piece. I like to 'marry two pieces' together, thinking past their original use."

Elisabeth Conlin Kantor of *Vintage Lizzie* says, "Buying vintage is simple—if you love it and can afford it, buy it. Vintage items are one of a kind, and it's a good chance you may never come across the same item twice."

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.





STYLE IT PRETTY

Pull together an assemblage of treasures. The classic design term "the wave" refers to objects displayed at different levels and heights that appeal to the eye in contrast to things that sit at one level. Consistency in color and theme make an impact in design by keeping the eye aware of every piece showcased.

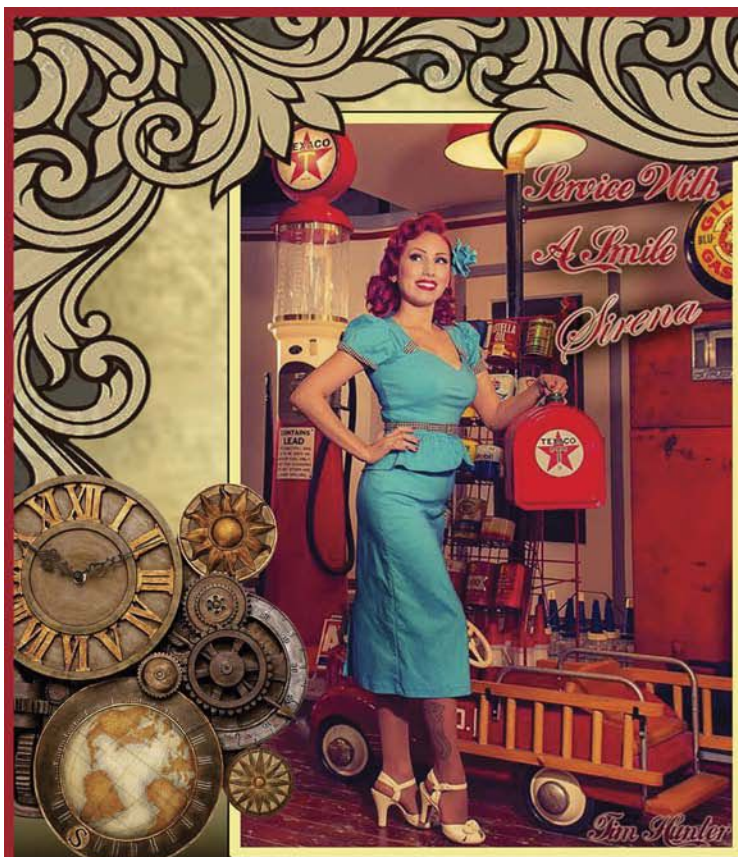


Say Ahh

“The things in my shop are of a casual nature, with a high dose of **shabbiness**, and I like it that way.”—Mary Lou Sergi



For more on Jo-Anne Coletti,
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Finding P the PIECES

IT CAN CATCH YOUR ATTENTION FOR ANY
NUMBER OF REASONS

—**the color, the sparkle, the
design, the history**—BUT ONE
THING IS CERTAIN, THIS IS THE
REASON YOU CAME HERE TODAY.

Trips to the flea market are made worthwhile in those moments when you find that perfect piece for the right price—the piece that will start or build your collection, polish a room, show a loved one how you feel or just bring a smile to your face.

Whether you're an experienced flea-market shopper and decorator or newly exploring this world of unimaginable treasures, on the following pages you'll find pieces to seek, flea markets to visit, design tricks to try and tips to follow.

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FUN FLEA *finds*

Written and photographed by Devlin Smith

Take inspiration for your next trip to the flea market from our list of must-haves.

Whether you're going in blind or shopping with a purpose,

each visit to the flea market is certain to deliver. From jewelry to linens to furnishings to collectibles, there's something to suit every taste and need—romantic, rustic or somewhere in between.

Here are a few finds that caught our attention during recent flea-market trips in Southern California, plus a few choices from expert pickers, all of which will add just the right spark to your home. (Prices will vary based on condition, availability and location.)



{ Textile Stamps }

These gorgeous, hand-carved wood textile stamps combine beauty and practicality. You can use them to stamp everything from walls to concrete, or display them on a coffee table or shelf to show off their intricate patterns. **Stamps start at \$25.**



{ Barber Bottles }

Barbers used these bell-shaped bottles for their oils. You can use them for flowers or small-item storage in your bathroom, or fill them with stones or glass beads. The bottles, priced at **\$15 each**, will also look beautiful lined up on a windowsill, the light shining through these mementos of a time gone by.



{ Vintage Cards & Postcards }

For just a few cents you can own a piece of the past. Greeting cards, notecards and postcards from the 1940s, '50s and '60s are plentiful at flea markets and can add endless charm to your home. Frame individual cards, create collages, use them to decoupage an inexpensive table or save them to decorate at the holidays.

{ Matte White Ceramics }

Dating back to the 1930s through '50s, this ceramic ware is stark but striking. The flat white is perfectly shabby, joyful with flowers or lovely on its own. **Pieces start at \$20.**

{ Tins }

Dating back to the 1930s, cookie and cracker tins can be used to add color to your home and are great for extra storage. **Pieces start at \$5.**



Picking Tip:

"Bring a magnet. If you are interested in solid brass, it is not magnetic, whereas silver is slightly magnetic. If it's brass plate or silver plate (silver or brass on steel), then you will know. Do a simple check before purchasing," recommends Larissa Haynes, who operates Prodigal Pieces (prodigalpieces.com).



{ Davidson Cloud Glass }

This jewel-toned glassware features light and dark shades that swirl together to "cloud" the glass. Produced from the 1920s through '50s, these pieces look best with the light shining through to show off their beautiful patterns and colors. **Priced from \$20.**



COUNTRY cloth

Kitchen textiles add instant style.

By Jacqueline deMontravel

The simplest way to design a new kitchen

without having a major remodel is to flourish with vintage textiles. Tea towels, seat cushions, tablecloths and runners are a jovial addition with their color and patterns. Mix a variety of styles in the same muted shade for a bold look that still is coordinated. You can easily change a look with the seasons or play with trends. High-quality, durable cotton that will withstand everyday use is a small investment that lasts.

DECORATING IDEAS

Cut fabric and sew a soft hem for an instant runner. Use tea towels in a variety of ways, such as lining breadbaskets, as finger towels or as a wall hanging for a jolt of color. Mix in other like-minded pieces such as ceramic bowls, flowers and food to create a playful, country look.



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{ Vintage Scales }

Shanon Gallegos, who writes the Vintage Sparkle Chic blog (vintagesparklechic.blogspot.com), collects vintage scales. Here, she shares her advice on finding, purchasing and displaying these treasures.

"I have paid around \$30 to \$40 for my scales," she says. "I really like the look of shabby and chippy, so that's what I was looking for. A true collector may look for scales in better condition (no rust or peeling paint, etc.). The display ideas are endless. I love to line them up for changing seasons. I also like to use one at a time and make the individual scale the statement piece. Mixing them with other vintage items such as an ironstone pitcher filled with flowers makes my heart sing."



IMAGE COURTESY OF SHANON GALLEGOS

TOYstory

Collect classic toys and games for the best playtime or just to admire.

By Jacqueline deMontravel

If you played with toys as a child that your

children favor now, you have a classic. This list also includes anything without batteries. My son loves the beeps and crashes of his trucks and robots for 10 minutes—until he loses interest or they lose power; then he fills his red wagon with remote-control devices that need refurbishment.

When looking for classic toys, always collect what you love. There is no use having boxes of Barbies taking up storage when you'd rather have a dollhouse to tinker with. Ideal pieces are limited-edition models. Yes, a manufacturing error that produced an off shade of blue Beanie Baby is now worth your child's orthodontia. Desirable production dates and models made with expensive features are also highly collectable.

DECORATING IDEAS

Toys are the ideal accent for any display area. Their color and scale will punch up a neutral space, making a statement. Or weave classic toys (or like-classic current toys) into your existing design to bring in a hint of nostalgia. Let the colors guide you—such as children's primary colors of red, yellow and blue—to bring whimsy to a space.



Stunt Team: Daredevil, \$35, (877) 834-8869 or tegu.com.



Eric Carle Little Musician Tambourine, \$13.99, (732) 274-1144 or amazon.com.



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Smaland dollhouse, \$99.99, (855) 431-3920 or lundby.com.



TO MARKET WE GO

Looking for that one-of-a-kind find or perfect piece for your home?
Start at one of these fleas.

By Devlin Smith

The sun is rising, the sky streaked with pink

and orange, the grass wet with dew. Despite the early hour, dedicated bargain-hunters are already striking deals and making purchases, packing their carts and wagons with their latest flea-market finds.

Filled with timeless treasures, must-have collectibles and one-of-a-kind *objects d'art*, flea markets have something to offer to every shopper and every taste. The markets are as varied as the vendors and pieces that fill their aisles, from weekly fairs to annual extravaganzas. There are thousands of flea markets held around the country throughout the year. Here are a few to check out.

{ **RENNINGER'S** }

renningers.net



RENNINGER'S

LOCATION: Melbourne and Mount Dora, Florida; Adamstown and Kutztown, Pennsylvania
DATES: Events held throughout the year

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY KRISTEN WHEELER

In the small, artsy town of Mt. Dora, Florida, a half hour north of Orlando, lies Renninger's Antique and Flea Market, one of the organization's four markets. Located on 117 acres of rolling hills and sprawling grass, it's a true destination in Central Florida that includes consignment stores, handpicked items, a small farmers' market, high-end antiques, affordable collectibles, and the list goes on. On the antiques side of the market, there are 200 regular vendors, though on a special event weekend they could have upward of 800 vendors.

Renninger's in Mount Dora has monthly, yearly and seasonal events including Guitars & Cars, Fall in the Field, Steampunk Industrial, Antique and Collector's Extravaganza, Radio Exchange, holiday events, swap meets and, my personal favorite, the Vintage Garden Show, which takes place the first weekend of April. Rusty planters for your vintage-inspired garden, bundles of orchids grown locally, garden antiques, linens, outdoor and patio furniture, and everything in between are all sold at the Vintage Garden Show.



{ GOAT HILL FAIR }

goathillfair.com



LOCATION: Watsonville, California
DATES: Next show is Nov. 14-15

The first Goat Hill Fair vintage market was held in 2011. The indoor fair is now held each May and November at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds and hosts more than 80 vendors.

"The variety in vintage offerings runs from handmade to repurposed, jewelry to architectural salvage, antiques to Midcentury Modern," says Shari Delgado Nicsevic, assistant to the fair's producer. "The stylized booths exhibit [everything from] rusty-shabby farmhouse items, vintage femme and mantiques, furnishings and bits and bobs, and garden statuary to exquisitely chic antiques."

Whatever your taste, if something catches your eye at the fair, think twice before walking away, Shari suggests. "When shopping, just as any good flea marketer knows, don't walk away from a treasure you are smitten with," she says. "Going back later to find it gone is a feeling no one likes. We held a contest this season about that one item you let get away; we all have a story to tell. If you love it, you will find a place for it."

RANDOLPH STREET MARKET

randolphstreetmarket.com



PHOTO BY GRACE WILLIS

LOCATION: Chicago

DATES: Events held throughout the year

For the past 12 years, designers, collectors and treasure-seekers have flocked to the Randolph Street Market in Chicago looking for antiques, home décor, artwork, fashion and more. From May through September, the market features more than 250 vendors in its indoor/outdoor space, while from October through April it features more than 100 vendors indoors.

"Big for 2015 is the boudoir for both men and women—tortoise-shell hair combs, sterling-silver grooming kits (hair brushes, combs, moustache combs, shoeshine kits), shaving accessories for men, perfume bottles for women. Personal style is always in fashion," says Sally Schwartz, market founder. "People love vintage signs with amazing typography, sturdy and well made vintage furniture and special home accessories to add a pop of vintage to any room."

Take your time to investigate any finds before making a purchase, Sally recommends.

"People need to look carefully, if it's pottery or porcelain, you need to hold it up to the light to see any hairline fractures," she says. "If it's jewelry, make sure all the stones are there; make sure the clasps work. On furniture, check the hardware and open the drawers to see whether it's been glued or the really fine and desirable technique of tongue-and-groove [has been used]. [On] handbags, look at the clasps, the handle, the lining and the bottom."



PHOTO BY ERIC CLARKE



PHOTO BY ERIC CLARKE



THIEVES MARKET VINTAGE FLEA

thievesmarketvintageflea.com



LOCATION: Tempe, Arizona
DATES: First Sunday of every month,
October through April

The Thieves Market Vintage Flea began in 2008 and now takes place the first Saturday of each month from October through April at Big Surf. It features between 50 and 100 vendors each month selling antique, vintage, midcentury, upcycled and original pieces.

"We have a lot of pickers and antique dealers, DIYers and homeowners [coming to the market], and there's a good mix between younger and older, men and women," says Lori Cowherd, Thieves Market cofounder. "There is a little something for everyone."

When visiting the market, take your time to discover an interesting find, Lori recommends. "First and foremost, don't be in a hurry," she says. "There is so much to see; it will serve you well to look in boxes, under tables and behind the obvious. You have to feed that sense of curiosity. It also helps to bring a tape measure and know what size pieces you are looking for in terms of furniture—things are not returnable."



Flea Markets

{ MICHIGAN ANTIQUE FESTIVAL }

miantiquefestival.com



LOCATION: Davisburg and Midland, Michigan
DATES: Next shows are Sept. 19–20 in Midland and Oct. 3–4 in Davisburg

Nearly 40 years ago the Michigan Antique Festival was launched as a car show in Midland, Michigan. The festival is now held five times a year at the Midland County Fairgrounds in Midland and Springfield Oaks County Park in Davisburg, offering all types of antiques, vintage furniture, smalls; Art Deco, Midcentury Modern, glassware, Americana and architectural pieces.

"The most popular items at the Michigan Antique Festival is hard to pin down because of the large assortment of items available," says Lori Oberlin, festival owner. "We have had a growing interest in shabby and industrial items, so much so that we have dedicated an entire area of the festival to those pieces."

Come prepared when visiting the festival, Lori recommends. "Get there early and wear great walking shoes," she says. "Some buyers bring a pull-behind cart to help haul all their items back to their vehicles. We do offer a portering service for large items—buyers just jump on a golf cart, and our employees help move items to their vehicles."

{ INLAND VINTAGE MARKET }

inlandvintagemarket.com



LOCATION: Pomona, California
DATES: First Sunday of every month

The first Inland Vintage Market was held on the Cal Poly Pomona campus in May 2015, and it's now a monthly event specializing in vintage items that are at least 20 years old, plus repurposed and handmade items.

"We are really going for the Pinterest feel and the repurposed [item] where someone takes an old vacuum and turns it into a light," says Tomi Heard, market organizer. "The items are everything from antiques [to] repurposed old vases, paintings, vintage windows, vintage signs, etc. I see that repurposing and bringing old pieces back to life is the new wave right now."



PHOTO BY LARISSA HAYNES



PHOTO BY LARISSA HAYNES

EXPERT Picks

Who better to recommend the best flea markets to visit than bloggers who've turned picking and collecting into an art?

HERE ARE A FEW TOP CHOICES TO CHECK OUT:

TULSA FLEA MARKET

(tulsafleamarket.net) in Tulsa, Oklahoma, "is the best," according to Lindsey Donaldson from the Cottage Dreaming & Flea Market Wishes blog (cottedreaming247.blogspot.com). Events are held most Saturdays.

THE SUMMER FLEA MARKET

(thesummermarket.com) in Avon Lake, Ohio, "is a must-see for me," says Larissa Haynes with the Prodigal Pieces blog (prodigalpieces.com). The event is held each July.

NEW JERSEY MARKETS

Four flea markets in New Jersey get high marks from Jill Harris with the blog *Vintageologie* (vintageologie.com).

The Columbus Farmers Market (columbusfarmersmarket.com) in Columbus is open year-round on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The Golden Nugget Antique and Flea Market (gnflea.com) in Lambertville is open seasonally on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The

Berlin Farmers Market (berlinfarmersmarket.com) in Berlin is open year round on Saturday and Sunday. The Ocean Grove Flea Market (oceangrovenj.com) in Ocean Grove is held in the spring and fall.



PHOTO BY LYNN BENNETT



PHOTO BY JILL HARRIS

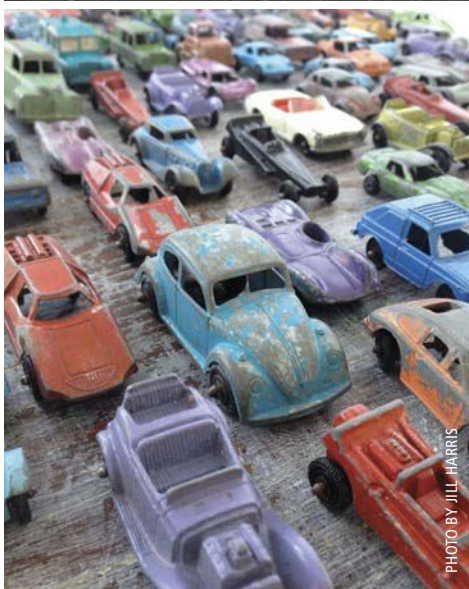


PHOTO BY JILL HARRIS



PHOTO BY JILL HARRIS

STEPPIN' OUT IN *style*

By Diane Sedo
Photography by Jackie Torres

A fashionable accessory from the Jazz Age is a fabulous piece to find, collect and display today.

Joanne Verde's compact collection

spans three decades. She worked as a makeup and treatment buyer for a large department store and collected related vanity items. Joanne narrowed her collection to tango chain compacts because she can artfully arrange them on her bedroom wall near her vanity and admire their beauty.

Can you imagine a flapper swinging her tango-chain compact while dancing the tango or Charleston? During the Roaring '20s, flapper girls carried stylish compacts when they went dancing. Dance compacts, as they are now called, had a tango chain with a finger ring at the end so ladies could wear it on their finger when dancing.

Wearing eye makeup and lipstick was more socially acceptable by then and ladies primped in public. They could check their makeup and powder their noses right at the table because their necessities like lipstick, powder, rouge and a mirror were right at their fingertips. Some compacts even had a compartment for a coin to ride the trolley home.

THE SQUARE COMPACT is an example of engine-turned engraving on a base metal and features an enameled oval cartouche in the center.



THE INTRICATELY CARVED DESIGNS

on the compacts create visual movement for the eye. The tasseled compact on the lower left side of the photo was manufactured by Fineberg Manufacturing Co., from Attleboro, Massachusetts, and is marked F.M. Co.

Diane Sedo is co-author of *Taking Tea with Alice* (1997 Warner Books, 2007 Benjamin Press) and is a certified instructor of Dorothea Johnson's Tea & Etiquette program (Elmwood Inn Fine Teas). Follow her two Facebook pages: Sentimental Celebrations, and Tea Cups and Cupcakes.

Ta Da



TIP

Joanne wipes her compacts with a soft cloth. She prefers a natural patina, so she doesn't use silver polish.

THE *GUILLOCHE* PROCESS

Guilloche, from the French term for engine-turning, is a decorative process that involved carving an intricate and repetitive design into a base metal using a geometric or rose engine lathe. Sometimes enamel paint was applied over the engraved base metal. After enameling, hand-painted decorative designs, such as the baskets and roses found on many of Joanne's compacts, were added.

MANUFACTURERS

Fashionable society ladies commissioned custom compacts from prestigious jewelry houses like Tiffany and Cartier. Exclusive high-end compacts were fashioned in precious metals like platinum and gold and studded with diamonds, emeralds, rubies and sapphires. Today these compacts sell for thousands of dollars.

Compact prices varied depending on the materials used and the manufacturer. Cosmetic companies like Helena Rubinstein, Revlon and Coty mass produced affordable, fashionable compacts for middle-class ladies. Their compacts were made from less expensive materials like base metal and sterling silver decorated with enamel. These compacts were truly beautiful objects of functional art and equaled the beauty of compacts made by prestigious jewelry makers. Costume jewelers and fashion designers of the day—Monet, Trifari, Hattie Carnegie and Schiaparelli—manufactured stunning, affordable compacts as well. Companies like Evans, Whiting and Davis, and Elgin-American manufactured empty cases to be filled with their own cosmetic products.

Compacts are quite collectable today. You can find them at flea markets, antiques shops, Etsy and eBay. Sterling *guilloche* enameled compacts range from \$300 to \$600 and more, but great bargains on compacts made from lesser materials can still be found. Happy hunting!

(TOP IMAGE) THE 2-INCH ROUND COMPACT has a mirror and compartments for rouge and powder. The large rectangular case holds a dance card and pencil.



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PRACTICAL & Cozy

Written, photographed and styled by Syl Loves

Mix and match flea-market treasures with new finds to create a welcoming kitchen space.

The kitchen is the place where most families

spend a lot of their quality time gathered around the table to chat, entertain guests, do homework and so on. It's no wonder then that we try to make our kitchens as cozy as possible.

Some prefer a fancy, modern design, while others prefer a mix of vintage and new. Either way, people try to combine practical functionality with their own personal style.

My preference is the vintage-inspired "happy kitchen" style, which has been growing in popularity in Europe, where I live. This style can be achieved by giving new life to flea-market finds.

CUPBOARDS

This treasure was found at a flea market in Colmar, France. It was ideal to fix up for that happy kitchen look. The designer decided to give it a lovely apple-green color and spiced it up further with Cath Kidston fabrics inside the shelves and outside the windows.

If you're thinking about buying a vintage cupboard like this one from a flea market, make sure to check inside and out for any moldy smells, as those are hard to get rid of. (The designer found this out the hard way.) Vintage items often spend years in dark, moist cellars before they are put on sale.



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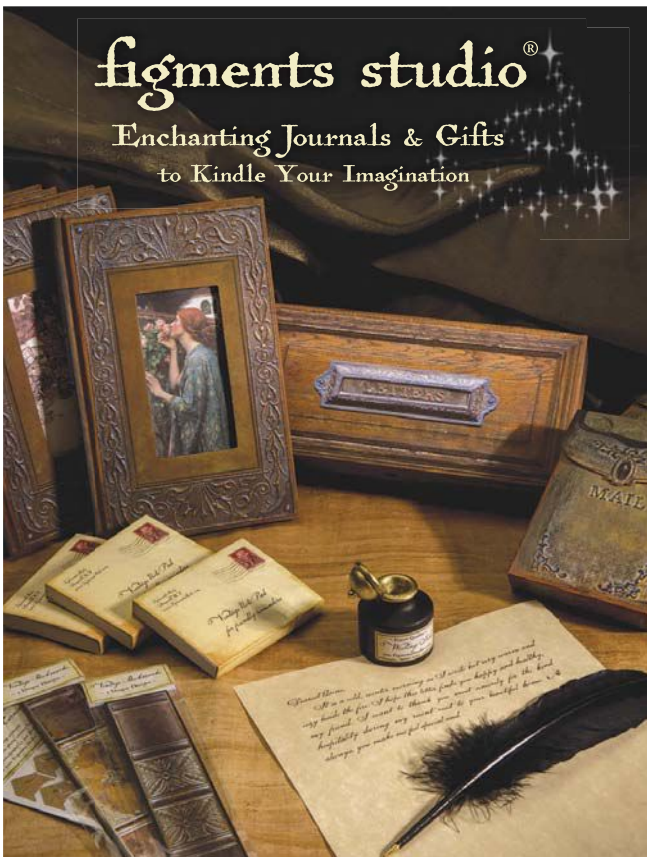
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Happy Kitchen



tip

If you have an old-smelling cupboard, you can place an open can of coffee beans inside to slowly absorb the smell.

Also make sure the wood feels sturdy, as wood bugs occasionally find their way in for a snack, making the cupboard unstable.

Often you'll find that cupboards are pretty on the outside but dull on the inside. To add a little wow effect, you can cover the shelves with your favorite paper or fabric and organize your jars, containers, pots, etc. nicely inside. Use scraps of fabric or crocheted

doilies as jar covers to liven things up a bit.

Don't be nervous about mixing and matching patterns either. Strawberries go really well with flowers, and cherries with dots, for example. But why stop there? The inside of the cupboard doors can be used as well. Simply hammer in a few small but sturdy nails to hang your sieves, strainers and ladles.



From the editors of

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item to seek at flea markets. Be sure
to check that they're sturdy enough to
be used to hold items or to give you
a step up.

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Happy Kitchen

CHAIRS & STOOLS

Vintage chairs and stools are full of charm. The more damaged, the better. You can use them in so many different ways, as a shelf for your homemade marmalade or a stand for herbs. Just be sure to check how stable they are before you buy. Sometimes one or more legs have become weak over the years and pose a hazard to someone who might stand on them.

TINS

Vintage tins are just adorable and can be found in most flea markets, but to get the good ones, I've learned you have to get there quite early. Paired with pretty ribbons and flowery fabrics, they give such a lovely cottage-like feel to any corner in the house that needs a little life.

If you can't make it out to the flea market, you can find lovely vintage items online at Etsy or at local thrift stores. Maybe Grandma is willing to part with a few old hidden-away tins that will add vintage charm to your kitchen.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.



FLEA MARKETS

ARE A GREAT PLACE TO SCORE VINTAGE ITEMS FOR YOUR KITCHEN, INCLUDING SMALL TABLES AND SERVING PIECES. CHECK FOR CRACKS, CHIPS AND OTHER SIGNS OF WEAR TO DETERMINE IF THE PIECES YOU FIND ARE JUST FOR DECORATION OR CAN BE USED FOR SERVING.





A TISKET, A TASKET

WIRE EGG BASKETS ARE A FUN AND FUNCTIONAL KITCHEN ITEM TO PICK UP AT THE FLEA MARKET. Use them for storing fruits, vegetables or flowers. Hang them from hooks on the wall or ceiling and fill them with towels and napkins to save valuable counter space. Add a sweet touch to these rustic pieces by covering the handles with ribbon (as done here) or lining them with scrap fabric.



FRESHENED *up*

Use a piece of vintage furniture and scrap of floral fabric for a clever and inexpensive bathroom vanity makeover.

Written, photographed and styled by Melinda Graham

WHEN DECORATING A HOME,

there seem to be two schools of thought about the bathroom: either the bathroom is completely overlooked or the entire budget is spent on fixtures and materials. There should be a happy medium where a bathroom can get the same attention as the rest of the home, without breaking the bank. For folks with a passion for vintage wares, finding that happy medium may be easier than you think. Look to a flea-market cabinet or vintage vanity for an alternative to the typical pedestal sink or boring base cabinet. When using vintage finds in unexpected ways, you can add loads of charm to every room, including the bathroom and powder room.

This little cottage-style room was just asking for something old. Adding a brand-new, ready-made cabinet would have seemed horribly out of place. It can sometimes be a challenge to keep the charm of an old home when adding or remodeling modern amenities. In this case, an old vanity was repurposed into a charming sink.

At first glance the vanity had clearly seen better days. Yet upon closer inspection it was apparent that the structure was completely sound. The tattered appearance helped because it

WHILE IT SEEMS BLUE-GLASS BOTTLES are a must-have for all collectors these days, they truly are the perfect vintage accessories for the bathroom. There are so many uses for glass bottles and jars, and the sea glass colors fit quite well in many washroom color schemes.



obviously affected the price tag of \$25 “to a good home.” Although it required minor tweaking and installation by a professional plumber, the labor cost would be required no matter what sink was installed. The finish was easy enough for the homeowner to tackle with a little paint and a light distressing with sand paper.

The final touch to the vanity was the addition of the skirt. It couldn’t have been easier. The bottom of a thrift-shop shower curtain (\$3) was cut off to the length of the space below the vanity. Then a 1-inch rod pocket was stitched straight across the top. (There is no need to sew a hem when using the finished bottom of a shower curtain.) Two small metal screw hooks (\$1.50) were placed on the face of the vanity, leaving the top drawers exposed. A café curtain rod (less than \$10) was used to hang the curtain from the metal hooks.

The total material costs were less than \$50, but the overall impact was priceless.

Once the sink was in place, finished and dressed, the entire feel of the room changed—for the better. Coupled with the aged finish on the walls and the natural hardwood floors, this was now a room in need of decorating. The walls were accented with floral prints and decorative plates, small wooden shelves were added for display and vintage collectibles were peppered throughout to tie the space together.

A bathroom redo can be an overwhelming project to face. However, the task is achievable and can be kept to a relatively low budget. If vintage treasures call to you and thrifting is in your blood, this bathroom redo just might find its way onto your makeover wish list.



AN OLD WOODEN VANITY can be transformed into an incredible one-of-a-kind sink with a little help from a plumber and lots of TLC. This vintage beauty had seen better days, yet the price was hard to beat. It makes the perfect replacement for a simple pedestal sink. • **OTHER THAN THE HOLE CUT IN THE TOP OF THE VANITY**, the only alteration made was to remove the bottom of the center drawer. This allowed room for the sink bowl and plumbing. The wood was gently sanded and wiped clean during preparation. Then the vanity was painted with two coats of paint, allowing sufficient dry times between coats. • **TO GIVE THE PIECE AN AGED LOOK**, the paint was lightly sanded to create a distressed finish. A final coat of matte polyurethane should be applied to the top to help protect against water damage. • **EVEN THOUGH THE VANITY HAS A FEW SMALL DRAWERS**, this bathroom, like so many, is lacking in storage space. The space under the vanity can house cleaning products, but that certainly takes away from the beauty. Hide the mess with a custom curtain for little money and less effort. The bottom of a shower curtain, two hooks and a café curtain rod are all that is needed to dress the vanity in style.

TIP:

Give the bathroom the same decorating attention you would any other room in your home. Maintain the theme, determine a color palette, dress the walls and tackle storage issues. Use vintage accessories in clever ways by looking beyond the intended use of an item, giving meaning to “thoughtful repurposing.”



INSTEAD OF SETTLING FOR A SIMPLE STANDARD PEDESTAL SINK, opt for an extraordinary vintage installation for a powder room or bath. An inexpensive wooden vanity and a piece of vintage fabric can be easily transformed into an exceptional focal point for your home. • **A SMALL, CARVED WOODEN SHELF** is given a fresh coat of white paint before being placed on the counter. The shape tucks neatly into the corner, hides the electrical cords from the chandelier and provides a little extra storage. Plus it's really pretty. • **LOOK TO CREATIVE ALTERNATIVES FOR TOWEL BARS.** Old shelves and wooden boxes make charming places to hang small hand towels and corral small containers.

9 FLEA-MARKET FINDS FOR THE LOO

For avid collectors, no room is off limits when it comes to decorating. Displaying collectibles in the bathroom can add to the overall look of the room and provide clever means of storage. Next time you're on the hunt for vintage treasures, keep an eye out for the following treasures.



1. **VINTAGE LINENS AND TOWELS.** His-and-hers towel sets have become a retro must-have. Finding sets in good condition can be a challenge but worth the hunt. Old cotton tea towels are another wonderful possibility. Drape one over a new white hand towel for lovely vintage appeal that's still a functional option for everyday use.
2. **ANTIQUE CHAMBER POTS.** Even though there is no longer a need for chamber pots in our modern world, it would be a shame to retire these beautiful old relics entirely. They are often made of heavy stoneware and feature elegant and colorful transferware patterns. Should you find one, be sure to clean the interior with bleach. Chamber pots can be useful for storage of small items such as cotton balls or washcloths.
3. **PITCHERS AND WASHBOWLS.** One of the most sought-after antiques for modern washrooms is a pitcher and washbowl set. Highly ornate sets were produced through Victorian times but soon thereafter were replaced by indoor plumbing. These beautiful sets are still proudly displayed in many homes and quite often used as vessels for fresh flowers.
4. **DRESSER SETS.** Vintage vanity sets were once very much in vogue and graced many a dresser. They reached their height of popularity in the Victorian era but stayed in fashion through the 1960s. Sets could be comprised of various items such as a tray, hair receiver, ring holder, trinket box, powder box or shaker and hatpin holder. Although they were made in a variety of materials over the years, the painted porcelain sets from the turn of the century are the most collectable among romantics.
5. **COSMETIC CONTAINERS.** Anything from glass jars to paper containers that once held cosmetics, powders and lotions is a special find. Because they were often discarded after use, old cosmetic containers can be hard to find. They can range from widely manufactured lotion jars to one-of-a-kind painted French perfume bottles. Displayed together in a cabinet or on a shelf, they can make a delightfully feminine feature for a powder room.



6.



7.



8.



9.

6. **STEP AND FOOT STOOLS.** Vintage metal step stools or chippy-wood small stools can be right at home in a bathroom. They are perfect placed next to a sink for children reaching to wash their hands, or they can be used as a small table or shelf for display. • 7. **WASTEBASKETS.** When looking to vintage items for powder room décor, don't forget about the trash receptacle. Retro waste cans are usually metal with a decoupage or hand-painted design on the face. If you can't find a suitable old wastebasket, be creative and use an old metal bucket or lovely wicker basket. • 8. **TINY TINS.** Small metal tins may not come to mind when hunting for washroom decorative items, yet they can provide lovely storage of small items. Many vintage food tins have wonderful colors and decorations. Small candy tins can be used for corralling clutter such as hairpins, tweezers, nail clippers and files. • 9. **MIX-AND-MATCH TEACUPS AND SAUCERS.** Beautiful floral teacups are hard to pass by, especially when they are 25 cents at a flea market. Often times our cabinets and cupboards become overrun with scads of mismatched cups and saucers. Pull them out of the cabinets and put them to use in the bathroom. Saucers are perfect for holding decorative hand soaps, while demitasse cups are ideal containers for Q-tips.

CHERISHED *memories*

Written, photographed and styled by Gay Van Beek

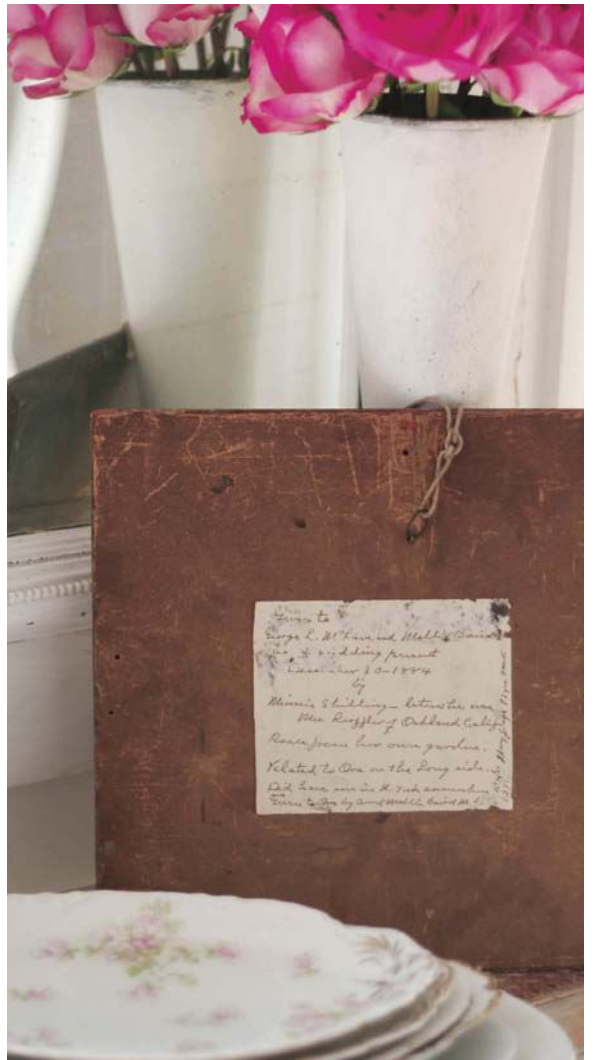
Take a vintage compact from flea-market find to a sweet and sentimental keepsake.

It is said that “a picture is worth a thousand words,”

so when my dear friend recently lost her beloved dog of 14 years, I wanted to express my sentiments to her in a unique way. My goal was to make her a lasting memento, one she could place on her night table to remind her of her sweet Buddy.

I knew precisely what I was looking for, so I ventured off to my favorite shopping locale: the flea market. I wound my way through the flea, searching through bins along the way to the back porch, where I knew the prettiest and best pieces would be. I looked past the vintage ironstone and found exactly what I was looking for. There, mixed in with a few vintage baubles in a sweet old celery dish, was a fabulous gold compact for \$12, which in an earlier time had held powdered makeup. I made my purchase (along with the celery dish) and went home to craft my photo compact.







CREATING THE KEEPSAKE

Buying Tips:

When looking for a vintage compact to make into a photo keepsake, remember:

The latch and hinges need to be in working order. Older compacts have more intricate embellishments on the front and make a prettier presentation when closed.

A larger compact will showcase your photo the best; 3 ½ to 4 inches is the perfect size.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

MATERIALS

- Vintage compact
- Glossy photo
- Scissors or circular cutter
- Glass, cut to size
- Glue
- Paintbrush

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. First, clean the compact and remove any bits of leftover powder.

2. Print out the photograph you will be using on high-quality, glossy photo paper. Glossy paper prevents any bleed-through from the glue.

3. Measure your photo and, using your compact as a guide, trace and trim to size. (I used a circular cutter.)

4. Add a dab of clear glue around the corners, and position your photo in the compact. Let the glue dry.

5. Next fit a circular piece of glass on top of the photo. I opted to use professionals for this step, as it is very difficult to cut glass in a circular shape without visible chips. This can be done at any glass company for under \$5.

6. With a small paintbrush, brush clear liquid glue around the outer rim of the glass. Insert into the compact and let it dry.

7. Bestow this sweet photo keepsake on family members or friends to honor someone they have loved and lost, and let it speak thousands of words to them daily.



Project Tips:

Turn to the pros for glass-cutting, an inexpensive and precise option.

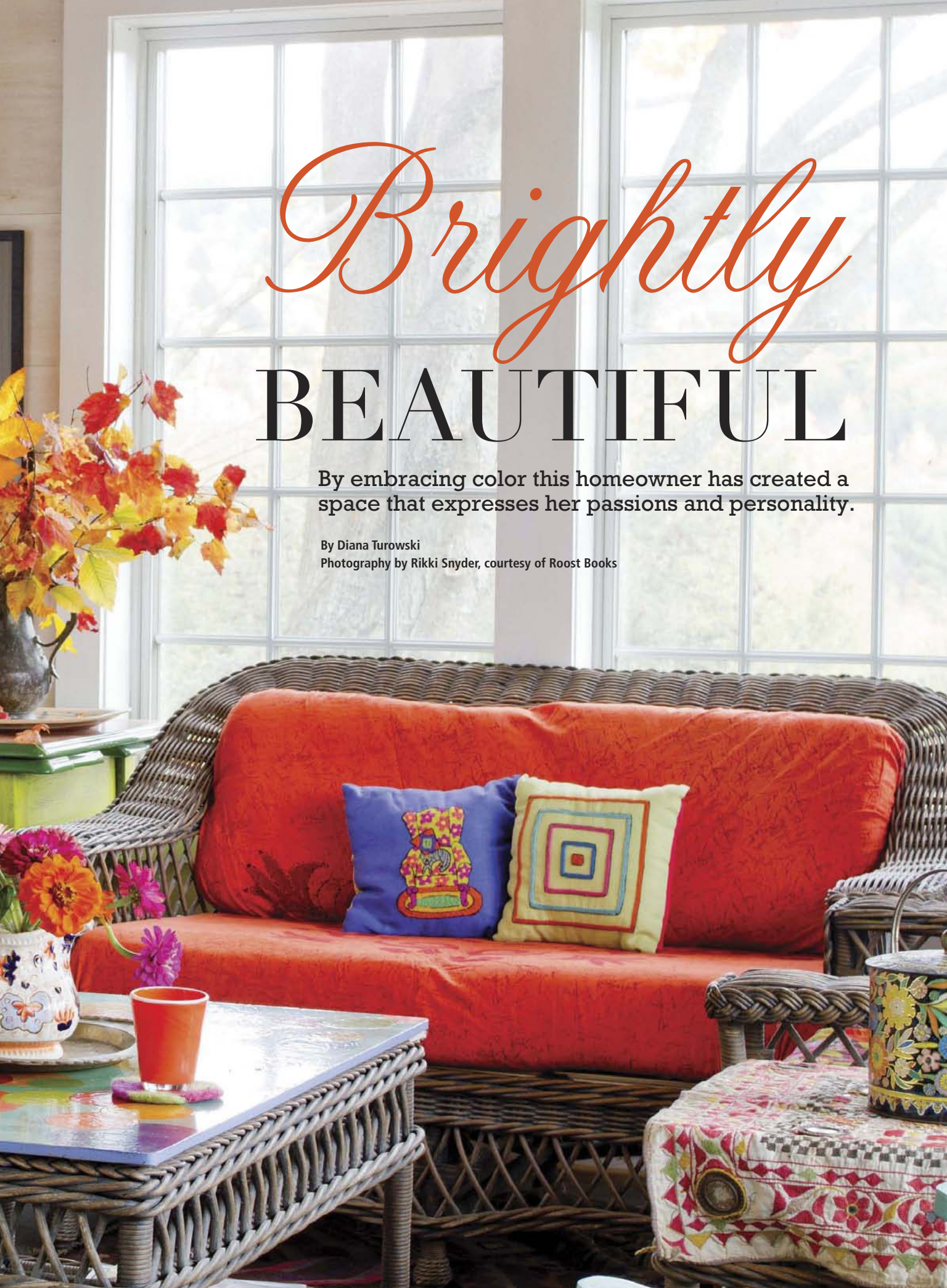
Use glossy paper to print your photos to avoid glue bleed-through.

TOP LEFT: Mixed in with vintage jewelry and pink and white china was the perfect gold compact. **ABOVE:** The trimmed photo ready to be glued into the compact. **OPPOSITE:** Open or closed, a vintage photo compact is a lovely celebration of a life passed.



For more on Gay, visit
canterburycottagedesigns.blogspot.com.





Brightly BEAUTIFUL

By embracing color this homeowner has created a space that expresses her passions and personality.

By Diana Turowski

Photography by Rikki Snyder, courtesy of Roost Books





ON LEYDEN GLEN FARMS, A
RURAL WESTERN
MASSACHUSETTS SHEEP FARM,

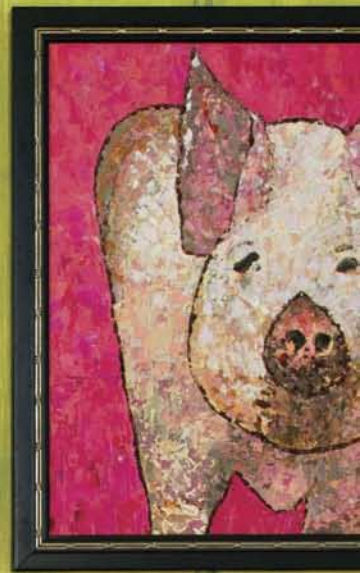
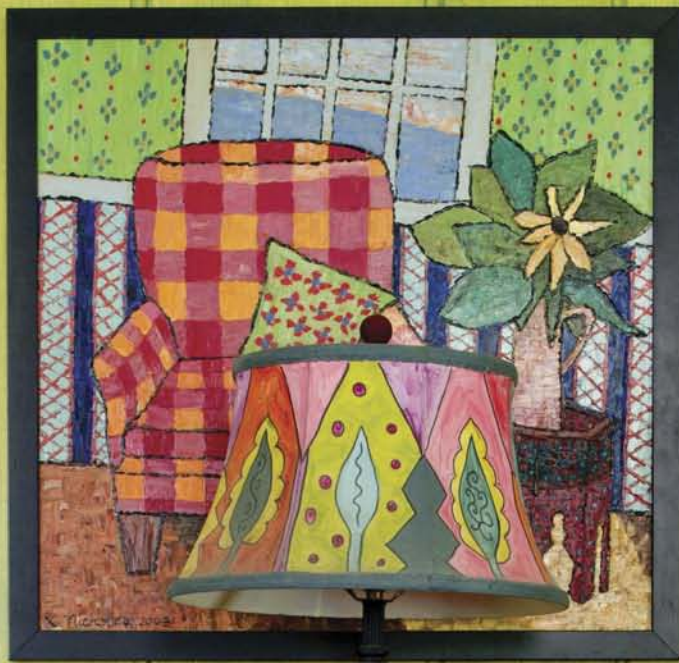
Kristin Nicholas lives with her husband and daughter in a 1751 farmhouse that has become her art palette. Her book, *Crafting a Colorful Home*, serves as both inspiration and a guide for those looking to recreate this unique and colorful décor. Her warm and inviting home is filled with color, charm and character.

"Inside the walls are hand painted in bright colors and fanciful patterns," Kristin says. "The décor is handmade and/or collected."

LIVING WITH COLOR

In her living room Kristin combines olive green, gold, chartreuse, kelly green and yellow. While she uses many different bold colors, they work well together because they are so similar in tone. To add many different colors to one room while maintaining a unified look, she recommends using colors close to each other on the color wheel.

She incorporates her needlework and knitwear designs in her décor. Nearly everything in the house is something Kristin has made herself. In her book, she offers do-it-yourself advice on the many things she has done to creatively add style, color and personality to her home. In addition to paint techniques, Kristin's book includes tips on





VICTORIAN DETAIL

Kristin created this archway between rooms. Before living in the farmhouse, she lived in a small Victorian house and missed some of the Victorian-style elements. Using luan bendable wood, she created an archway in a square pass-through. After covering the plywood with plaster, she used air-dry clay to make flowers and silicon to secure them to the wall. This creative project is one more way to add a personal touch to the architectural design in any home.

WORK SPACE

In Kristin's studio the floor is covered with nine different colors of vinyl tiles. These tiles come in over 200 colors; it's easy and inexpensive to pick just a few you like. She thinks of this design as a patchwork quilt on the floor. The studio is colorful and bright, yet open, airy and clean.





"knitting, crochet, recycling, mosaic, sewing, felting, embroidery and more."

The farmhouse, bursting with color, pattern, sunflowers, and home-made and collected items, didn't come together in a day. Kristin has lived in this home for 17 years and has made and collected things along the way to fill it. Her style is all about textures. From knits and needlework to pottery and fabrics that she designs herself, texture is an important element of Kristin's décor. A walk through this antique farmhouse feels authentic and inspired.

IN BLOOM

Kristin has a sunflower garden where she grows 15 varieties of sunflowers. She picks them regularly and brings them in to decorate and brighten the house. Nearly every room in the house displays sunflowers, a picture of sunflowers or both. She also sells them at a local farmers' market.









DINING IN STYLE

The mural on the wall in the dining room was inspired by Kristin's mother's wallpaper. As a child Kristin had wallpaper featuring monkeys and squirrels, which she thought was a little odd, but she loved the crazy patterns. The repetition on a wallpaper pattern is usually every 24 or 36 inches. Kristin's idea here was to use a crazy wallpaper-like pattern, but blow it up to a large scale.

First, Kristin painted the wall orange and then started drawing vines. She kept adding and adding and did the whole mural herself by hand. She says the key is confidence. Try to do it yourself. Just get started and see what you can do. If you really can't, maybe you will learn something along the way and can hire someone to finish it for you.

The dining room furniture had come from her great aunt and was a light oak color. Kristin used a watered-down, oil-based black paint as a stain to darken the light oak. In fact, much of her furniture has come from relatives. She repaints and repurposes these old pieces. She painted an old hutch she inherited from her grandmother a reddish color for a completely new look.







GET THE LOOK

If you enjoy the warm, welcoming charm and homespun feel Kristin has skillfully created, she advises, "Be bold and go for it. Don't be afraid of using bright colors. Have confidence that you can—just do it."

She says a "can do" attitude is essential for projects like these. Even if you think you can't do something, just give it a try. If you think you can't paint a mural on a wall, try anyway. Maybe it will be great. Believe in yourself and make your home your own, Kristin advises.

Kristin says achieving this look is all about layering. Take time to create an authentic look. Start with some color and items that are special to you, and continue to add and layer over the years.



THE KITCHEN IS A LIGHT GRAY. Colorful pottery pops all over. The effect is a cozy and useful space.

KRISTIN FOUND THE CHAIRS for the dining table on her three-season porch on the street; she painted each a different color. The artwork was created by Kristin and her daughter. The tablecloth is a project featured in *Crafting a Colorful Home*.



*“Don’t be afraid of using
bright colors.”*

HAVE CONFIDENCE
THAT YOU CAN—
JUST DO IT”

LIGHT PLAY

Kristin paints her lampshades. She starts with a basic white lampshade and then uses fabric paint. The result is a unique and authentic look. When the light shines through, it almost looks like stained glass—but very inexpensive to do. In fact, most of what Kristin does in her home can be recreated inexpensively.

[For more information on Kristin, visit kristinnicholas.com.]





FEELING *blue*

Bright colors, salvaged finds and beloved treasures make this house a happy home for a florist and her family.

By Monique van der Pauw/ Features & More
Photography by Anna de Leeuw/Features & More
Styling by Mirjam van der Ende

MIRJAM VAN DER ENDE HAS HER OWN STYLE when it comes to arranging flower bouquets at her flower shop Meer

Bloemen Natuurlijk in Leiden, The Netherlands. "I want them to look as if all [the] flowers were picked in the garden," she says. "I seem to succeed, because sometimes people ask me, 'Wow, do you have a garden that big?'"

The natural style—no fuss, no artificiality—is her. This approach shows in her home as well. Not only is it important for Mirjam to use only natural materials like wood, stone, linen and wool in her work, but she also decorates her home, which was built in 1928, in a natural, organic way.

A FAVORITE SPOT FOR MEALS with a view of the garden and the pasture behind is next to the rod window made by Mirjam's then-husband, Harry. The woodwork outside is painted bright blue, giving the house its nickname: The Blue House.



AT HOME

Mirjam and her then-husband Harry found the house in 1982. A group of students was living there, renting the place from an old woman who had raised nine children and felt lonely after they left the house.

"Don't buy this house," the students warned us, "it's a terrible place," Mirjam recalls. "They were right: there were leaks everywhere, they had put plastics on the ceiling to prevent water from coming down. The house was in a very bad

condition and needed a full renovation. We didn't mind. We were both creative people used to working with our hands; we knew we could do the job."

Despite its condition, the couple was intent on purchasing and renovating the house, largely due to its location in a residential area 10 minutes from the city center but surrounded by nature. The house offers a view of a pasture teeming with sheep, geese and other birds.

"I've been living here now for 30 years, but still every time I come home, whether it's winter or summer, a rainy or sunny day, I think,



"WE WERE BOTH
CREATIVE PEOPLE
USED TO WORKING
WITH OUR HANDS;
*we knew we
could do the job."*

THE KITCHEN WAS MADE BY HARRY. "He even made the paneled fronts," Mirjam says. The worktop is made of waterproof plywood, "but it's still quite fragile, so now and then I paint it again," she says. The floor is covered with old flagstones. Mirjam sewed the curtains herself. "For this kind of thing I often use napkins or fabrics bought at the market," she says.



wow," Mirjam says. "It's the most beautiful place in the world. This is where I belong, and I feel very privileged to live here."

Mirjam and Harry raised their three children in the home. Today, Mirjam lives there with youngest daughter, Jet, and friend Michiel.

DESIGN PROCESS

It took Mirjam and Harry five years to renovate the house. After one-and-a-half years, they moved in and settled themselves in the attic, where they lived for the next three-and-a-half years while finishing the house, room after room.

The exterior walls were kept; all the rest was stripped and replaced. One interior wall was demolished to create a living room with an eat-in kitchen. A large rod window, built by Harry, opens up to the garden and the pasture behind it, and is now a favorite spot for the dining table in

MIRJAM ENJOYS COOKING AND BAKING. A few treats are set on a well-worn table.

"Buying something at an interior shop isn't me."

I JUST NEVER SEE ANYTHING I
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE, OR IT'S
SIMPLY TOO EXPENSIVE."

IN WINTER THE DINING TABLE moves from the
rod window in the living room to the small music room,
with its piano and a comfortable wood stove. Mirjam
made the chandelier by using old frames. "It took me
two years to find all the crystal pieces," she says.





tip

FIND A THEME FOR YOUR HOME, SUCH AS A COLOR, PATTERN OR MOTIF THAT CAN BE USED THROUGHOUT TO UNIFY THE SPACE.

BLUE IS USED EVERYWHERE in the house and offers a fine graphic effect in the bathroom.

summertime. In wintertime the table moves to a small room on the ground floor that also has a piano and a sturdy wood stove.

On the first floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom. The attic was transformed into another two bedrooms. There's plenty of daylight everywhere, "because all of the rooms have windows on two sides," Mirjam says. "It's a pity that because of this there's no room for Michiel's paintings, but, really, I love all this light."

RECLAIMED AND CUSTOM-MADE

During the renovation, lots of time was spent in finding the right materials—salvaged materials like paneled doors, handmade tiles and porcelain sinks.

"I love old materials, and I think that they deserve to be salvaged," Mirjam says. "At that time it wasn't that easy to find them, so it took a lot of searching. I remember I did my utmost best to find these special oval-designed porcelain handles. I'm not sure I would get into that kind of details now ... Besides, I could easily find pleasure in using a piece of rope instead of handles."

Mirjam designed and Harry made their own furniture, like the beautiful wall-covering cupboard created with the use of old doors. Harry also made the kitchen cabinets, the chimney and even the rod windows. "The house has 300 of those small windows," Mirjam says. "I only clean them once a year."

LAND AND SEA

To describe her style, Mirjam walks to the kitchen and returns with a smartly designed white teapot in one hand and an old baroque-ish chandelier in the other. "I can't choose between the crisp, clean Scandinavian style and a more classic castle kind of style," she says.

Her solution is as simple as it is efficient: don't bother; just mix and match everything you like. She particularly likes old pieces that she finds in secondhand stores and at flea markets.



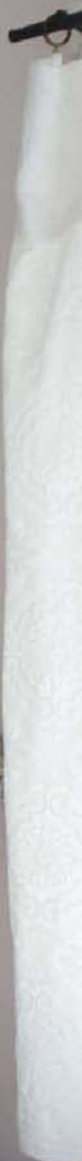
*"This is where I belong,
AND I FEEL VERY
PRIVILEGED TO
LIVE HERE."*

MIRJAM MADE
THIS PAINTING OF
A MAGNOLIA. She

loves nature and
always brings home
shells, branches, leaves
and stones.

JET SLEEPS IN THIS IRON BED

that her parents found in France. The walls in her bedroom are painted an antique gray-rose.





A STURDY SANDED OLD DOOR leads to Mirjam's study.

"Buying something in an interior shop isn't me. I just never see anything I would like to have, or it's simply too expensive," she says. "I never spend money on decorating my house; I work with the coincidences that cross my path. I don't particularly look for things, but I always find them."

She first began finding things when she lived on the island of Curacao as a child and went to the beach with her father, returning home with small treasures like seahorses, shells and stones. She still has these pieces and keeps them in her collection of old jars, some of her most-beloved belongings.

"In these pots are my collections of land and sea," Mirjam says. "From the land I got pieces of broken glass, old tiles, and bits and pieces from an archaeological field nearby, where my son and I were allowed to go after the scientists had left the scene. These findings from land and sea, they have to bury them with me."

THE BLUE HOUSE

No one will ever be unable to find Mirjam's house. It's easily recognizable, thanks to its bright, blue painted woodwork. "Everyone calls this The Blue House," she says.

Stepping inside, the colors continue to surprise. The kitchen is painted blue, a cupboard is orange-yellow and the walls are covered in blue, lilac, violet and gray-rose. There's no doubt, the lady of this house loves color.

"Blue is my favorite, as well as green," she says. "All the rooms always have had different colors. I've painted and repainted a lot; the kitchen has had all the colors of the rainbow. Its color is [currently] taupe, but the inside is still blue. It's quite a job to paint this kitchen, so the last time I decided to only paint what you can see."

ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE

Mirjam's home is decorated with a number of salvage pieces, including doors and tiles. Flea markets, charity shops, salvage yards and even Craigslist offer salvage items ranging from bathroom tiles to mantels. Ask questions and do careful inspection before making a purchase to ensure the piece is in good condition. And don't forget your tape measure! You don't want to spend the time, money and effort to bring home a salvaged clawfoot tub only to discover it won't fit through your bathroom door.



A BOUQUET OF
FLOWERS

made by
Mirjam. "I want my
bouquets to look as if all
flowers were picked from
the garden," she says.





AN OLD BED FOUND IN FRANCE now serves as a nice spot to relax on the courtyard.

CONTENTMENT

Nowadays at the beginning of winter and summer some colors in the house still may change, just like at these times the dining table changes rooms. But after nearly 30 years of enthusiastically changing and painting, Mirjam now is just fine with the interior as it is.

"I'm living with an artist who is the less-is-more, back-to-basics type," she says. "I don't feel the urge to change that much anymore or to buy things anymore. I learned a lot from Harry, who's very modest as well, and I'm learning a lot from Michiel. I'm very happy with my house as it is."

NOORDERMARKT

Homeowner Mirjam found pieces for her home, including bedding, at the Noordermarkt in Amsterdam. This outdoor market, located in the Jordaan district, is open Mondays and Saturdays. It features vendors selling antiques, accessories, jewelry, artwork, clothing and more. Noordermarkt also features a farmers' market.





FLORAL Chic

Transform your space into a warm, inviting feminine retreat with these essential elements.

By Diana Turowski • Photography by Mikkel Vang/Taverne Agency



TEXTURE

A mixture of soft and rough textures is used to create the desired look in this room. Wicker baskets add texture and offset the formality of the Oriental rug and gilded mirror. Cotton and linen fabrics are used to create the look and feel of softness. Ample ruffled pillows add to the feminine vibe of the bedroom.

THE SHABBY VINTAGE STYLE, POPULAR SINCE THE 1980S,

is about as feminine a style as there is. From the lovely pastels and soft, airy fabrics to the many varieties of flowers used, this style embodies the feminine spirit. Its vintage undertones complement its rustic appeal, while the colors keep it light and the fabrics keep it soft. Perhaps the best part is that it is inexpensive and easy to recreate this look for yourself.

Here, in this shabby vintage bedroom, a classic cottage feel is maintained. There are several key characteristics of the style that can be incorporated into your own space.

COLOR

While whites and off-whites are the standbys of shabby elegance, other popular colors include pastels such as pale blue, rose pink and yellow—all used in this bedroom. Sticking to softer shades allows the homeowner to mix in several colors without overpowering the room.





Nature

The sheets display a floral pattern, pictures of flowers hang on the walls, a rose wallpaper border floats above the bed and a vase of fresh flowers sits on the nightstand. In addition, fruits and vegetables from the garden adorn the open iron shelving, along with plants and more fresh flowers.

TOP LEFT

The bedroom has a warm and inviting feel with its pale-yellow duvet cover, pink-and-white pillowcases and a pink rose wallpaper border. The white headboard is ornate and antique, yet open and airy.

TOP RIGHT

Don't forget to make everything your own. Display things that you love that are unique, and it's hard to go wrong with this rustic feminine style.



Get the Look

Fortunately a shabby vintage look can be easily created. And the most authentic way to do it is inexpensively. Repurposing existing pieces is an ideal way to start. Repaint a flea-market dresser, sideboard or nightstand. Just paint one coat over the top for a distressed look. Use mismatched knobs on drawers and cabinets. An old sofa or chair can be reupholstered in a soft floral fabric or fitted with a pastel slipcover. You can repaint a hutch to display your favorite dishes or personal accessories. Visit local antiques stores or flea markets for great vintage finds. Antique light fixtures have many different uses. A farm table made from reclaimed wood is a great addition to any shabby vintage dining room or kitchen.



DECORATE WITH Flowers & Plants

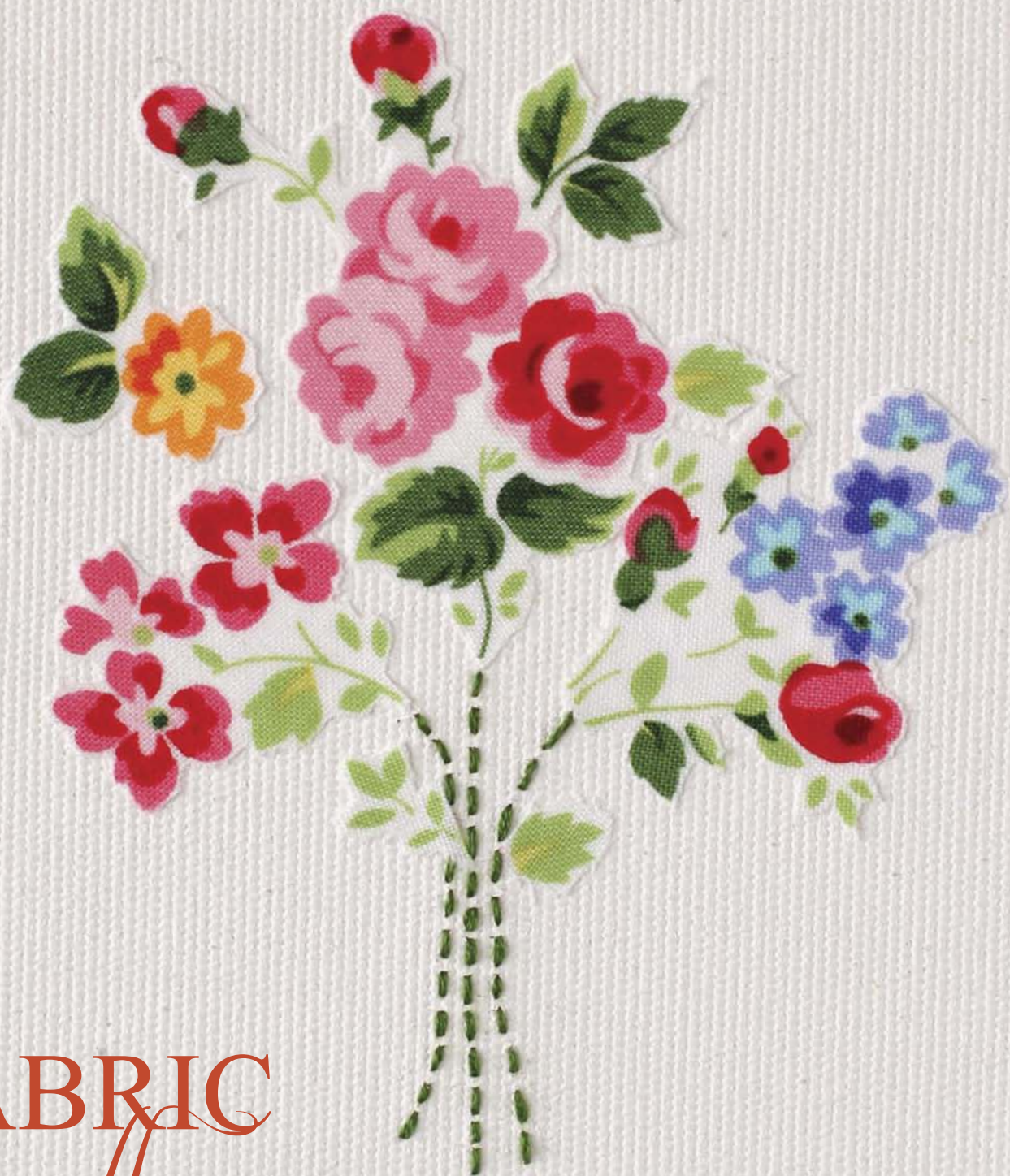
This classic element of shabby vintage style is one of the easiest to implement. In addition to roses and other flowers, display garden vegetables, as these homeowners do. Doing so adds an organic and earthy quality to the room. Get creative with this. Try putting flowers in white pottery instead of a regular vase, or place a large bowl overflowing with vegetables on the counter.

tip For fabrics, select cotton, linen or chenille. Choose a soft floral print or try staining a neutral linen fabric with tea for an antique yellowed look reminiscent of old French linens.



Personalize





FABRIC

Flowers

WALL ART

Use fabric and embroidery thread to create a unique piece for your home.

Written, photographed and styled by Ayda Algin

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

I ENJOY CREATING AND ARRANGING

wall decorations in my home. Sometimes I feel like filling all of my walls with large and small pictures, but so far I haven't been brave enough to make that bold design move. So instead of hanging a multitude of pictures at once, I try to change my wall decoration every season.

The things we hang on our walls need not be expensive. What's more important is that we feel happy when we look at them. I love floral details in home décor, and my passion inspired this simple project.

This floral fabric project is perfect for a living room or any room you want. To make it, you can use any small scraps of fabric and embroidery thread you have on hand.

Be creative when choosing your floral-patterned fabrics; create a single picture for your wall or possibly a few of them. You can also stack and tie them with a pretty piece of string or ribbon and give them to a friend as a sweet handmade gift.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Various floral fabrics (I used Pam Kitty Morning Lakehouse Love Bouquets in White.)
- Applique glue
- Canvas (4 x 4 inches)
- Embroidery floss
- Embroidery needles
- Scissors
- Ribbons (optional)

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Choose your floral-patterned fabrics and cut out the flowers from them. Cut as many flowers as you'd like to use.

2. Arrange your flowers in a bouquet on the canvas before gluing them. When you're happy with your flower arrangement, apply the applique glue all over the back of the flower pieces and affix them to your canvas.

3. Wait for the glue to dry; then use the embroidery thread to create the stems freehand. If you want, you can "tie" your bouquet with a pretty piece of string or ribbon.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.



WHEN YOUR BOUQUET IS FINISHED, PROUDLY
HANG THE CANVAS AND ENJOY YOUR
BEAUTIFUL SPRAY OF FLOWERS.

SUPPLIES *party*

Even if September doesn't find you back in the classroom, it's still the perfect time to stock up on supplies to outfit your desk in cottage style.

Written, photographed and styled by Elyse Major

The possibilities are endless and you'll earn an A+ for effort.



L

ONG BEFORE THE FIRST
LEAVES BEGIN TO FALL,

big-box stores are bursting with back-to-school provisions. Purchase pencils, erasers and more on the cheap, and decorate them into the sweetest suite of desk supplies for school, work or home.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

MATERIALS

- School supplies (brads, erasers, glue bottles, notebooks, paper clips, pencils, scissors, thumb tacks)
- Decoupage medium
- Decorative paper (scrapbooking paper or photocopies of favorite fabrics, handkerchiefs or images)
- Glue stick
- Hole punch
- School glue
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Paper cutter
- Embellishments

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Assemble all of your school supply purchases and craft supplies and size them up. Think: How can I decorate this? Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Tie short strips of soft ribbon to scissor handles and to the tops of paper clips.
- Punch holes in decorative paper, and then affix the tiny circles to the heads of tacks or brads.
- Cover the front of a notebook or sturdy folder with a collage of decorative paper. Seal with a light coat of decoupage medium.
- Cover the label on a bottle of glue with a rectangle of paper.

Writer and self-proclaimed “tinkerer” **Elyse Major** is the author of *Tinkered Treasures* and *Seaside Tinkered Treasures* (CICO Books). She also contributes to publications including *Romantic Homes*. Elyse lives in Rhode Island with her husband and two boys. Visit her at tinkeredtreasures.com.



Cut paper to fit the painted area of a pencil, roll-up and affix with a light coating of glue stick.



Wrap erasers in trimming, and dot with an adhesive gem or glue on a paper rose.

Shopping Guide

Say Ahh

page 16

Chalk paint: Annie Sloan, (504) 305-5531 or anniesloan.com.

Vintage prom dresses: Mimi's Vintage Clothes at Chanel Shabby Rose, (774) 291-9753.

Retailer: Chanel Shabby Rose, (774) 291-9753 or chanelshabbyrose.com.

Retailer: Madden Blue, (781) 352-3904 or maddenblue.com.

Retailer: Vintage Lizzie, visit vintagelizzie.com.

Ta Da

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Vintage dance compacts: Joanne Verde, Belle Rouge, bellerouge@cox.net.

Tea Leaf Cottage, (714) 771-7752.

Happy Kitchen

page 38

Fabrics: Cath Kidston, visit cathkidston.com.

Simply

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Café curtain rod and hooks: Walmart, visit walmart.com.

Vintage accessories: Surroundings by Melinda,

(239) 579-0409 or surroundingsbymelinda.com.

Vanity paint: Raffia Beige by Valspar, available at Lowes, visit lowes.com.

Personalize

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Fabric: Pam Kitty Morning, Lakehouse Love Bouquets in White, visit pamkittymorning.blogspot.com.tr.



Coming Next Month



CLASSIC RECIPE

Our October issue is dedicated to the heart of the home—the kitchen. We'll share inspirational tours, design tips and projects to help you create the warm, welcoming kitchen of your dreams. The October issue will also feature ideas for hosting a romantic fall celebration.

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MISS ROSE SISTER VIOLET



PHOTO BY JICKIE TORRES



MISS ROSE SISTER VIOLET (missrosesisterviolet.com) was founded in Adelaide, Australia, in 1975 by Tom and Gabriella Kerkez as a bookstore and gift shop. Today it's known for its vintage-inspired clothing, housewares and gifts. Daughters Ishbel and Yasmin are also helping run the business.

"Our daily lives revolve around exciting adventures, creativity, friendships and designing," Yasmin says. "We believe there is no time like the present to dress as a princess, surround yourself with treasures, and live with love and laughter always at your side."

Here the family shares a few of their favorite things.

{CLOCKWISE}

AFTERNOON TEA. We love afternoon tea parties, decorated tables with hot pots of tea and china teacups with delicate, hand-painted flowers rimmed in gold. And, of course, petite pastries and homemade cakes, the laughter of friends and a dog at our feet.

CREATING. Nothing makes us happier than an afternoon spent creating in our studio. Messy piles of lace, ribbons, paper and embellishments are always there for creating.

FLOWERS are an ever-present part of the Miss Rose Sister Violet world. Our own velvet flowers decorate our creations, and fresh flowers fill the house and studio daily.

PARIS. We try to go at least once a year to this city that sparkles with beauty and enchantment.

ANIMALS have always been a big part of our lives; extending beyond our own loved dogs and cats to all animals, all sizes. We give willingly to charities regularly, live a vegan lifestyle and one day hope to have a sanctuary of our own.

FLEA MARKETS. You never know what you are going to find among the antiques and forgotten treasures of a flea market. Alameda (alamedapointantiquesfaire.com) is one of our favorite local flea markets to visit in San Francisco and Clignancourt in Paris. Many a time we have had to struggle with already overflowing luggage and questions of where to put the small chandelier and porcelain tea set that we simply could not leave behind.

TRAVELING AND ADVENTURES: We love to travel and visit cities all over the world. We love to explore cobbled lanes, bustling city corners, grand avenues, tiny streets and all the treasures and surprises that beautiful cities hold.



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